The Ordnance Corps Quarterly

U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command

March 2017

Volume 3, Issue 3

Chief's Corner

The United States Army Ordnance Corps is proud to support the Chief of Staff of the Army's number one priority, Readiness. His priority is echoed in our Ordnance Corps motto: Service to the Line, on the Line, on Time! We have aligned our regimental focus on building readiness across three major lines of effort: **Ordnance Proponency** (manning and maintaining the health of the Ordnance Corps), **Ordnance Capabilities Development** (equipping the future force), and **Ordnance Training,** which will be the focus of this article.

What have we done? Maintenance is the cornerstone of Readiness. The quality of maintenance is dependent on the technical skills of our Soldiers – the centerpiece of our great Army - and the leaders who hold them to the highest standards of maintenance discipline. At the institutional level, we are working several training initiatives that directly impact the readiness of our Soldiers and their equipment. In support of the One Army School System (OASS) initiative, we continue to work closely with TRADOC and to synchronize the standards of training offered across all compos: AC, USAR and ARNG. We continue to deliver distributed learning programs/products and to develop unit training programs to bridge short-term gaps in maintenance skills. But there is one training initiative that commanders in the operational Army can greatly impact – and that is our **Ordnance credentialing program**. Here is a little about the program and what you can do to help…

What are we doing? Did you know the U.S. Army Ordnance School offers credentialing programs in both AIT and PME courses? The programs are available in 17 Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) and 3 warrant officer specialties. In fact, the Ordnance School is currently the most credentialed branch in TRADOC! Our U.S. Army Ordnance professionals have received civilian credentials or licensure from recognized organizations such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the American Welding Society, and the National Institute for Metalworking Skills. A limited number of National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) credentialing vouchers are available for distribution to USAR and ARNG regional training sites upon request. In FY16, we certified or credentialed over 7,800 Soldiers, NCOs, and warrant officers with an overall pass rate of 93.59%.

How does it work? Soldiers attending AIT and PME training in select ordnance occupational specialties may sign up for credentialing vouchers. The vouchers, at no cost to the Soldier, provide access to training

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A U.S. Army Ordnance School (USAODS) Instructor assists a student as he performs a practice exercise on the lathe. Upon graduation, the student will be an Allied Trades Specialist (91E). Thru USAODS' affiliation with the National Institute of Metal Working (NIMS) and the American Welding society (AWS), Soldiers are offered credentialing opportunities in machining and welding as they train to become Allied Trades Specialists.

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resources and allow Soldiers to take the certification/ licensing tests free of charge at approved testing facilities. In some cases we administer the tests at the Ordnance School.

Why are we doing it? TRADOC initiated its credentialing program in response to the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) Act of 2011 and the National Defense Authorization (NDA) Act of 2012, which required DoD to provide Soldiers opportunities to earn industry credentials. Credentialing is one aspect of the Army's Soldier for Life (SFL) program, which recognizes a Soldiers' service is for life. From initial entry, and for the duration of their careers, Soldiers are learning valuable skills that ensure the readiness of our Army. When Soldiers transition out of the Army, credentialing confirms to prospective employers that a Soldier's skills align with industry standards. Although the long-term impact of the credentialing program is to make Soldiers more competitive in the civilian labor market, there are more immediate benefits to be garnered for the Soldier, and for the Army.

Why does it matter to you? Successful completion of the program validates the quality of training offered at the Ordnance School and the quality of experience gained at the operational units. It increases our Solder's confidence in their own abilities, validates the trust placed in them by their leaders, provides an opportunity for self-development, increases promotion potential, and sets Soldier's up for success as they transition out of military service. Successful transition to a civilian job results in cost avoidance by reducing veteran unemployment rates. But more importantly, veterans who have a smooth transition experience are more likely to share with others the positive aspects of their Army experience and the life-long skills they learned in uniform.

What can you do? Because TRADOC courses are time-intensive, it's difficult for students to complete a credentialing program prior to graduating from their AIT or PME courses. Soldiers who are issued credentialing vouchers during AIT or PME need support at their duty assignments to complete the program. Command emphasis and strong mentors are essential to getting Soldiers to sign up for the credentialing program and to help them stay on track until they complete it.

Some credentialing programs target the journeyman level. These are not necessarily a good fit for AIT graduates who are just starting to learn their jobs. But they are a good fit for Soldiers who have gained some experience. Leaders who promote the credentialing program as an important component of professional self-development are actually building the technical skill base our Army relies on to maintain readiness.

An example… Clarence Jackson is a prime example of the impact leader support has on the credentialing effort. Jackson was recently selected as the 2016 Educator of the Year by ETA® International. He received this prestigious honor for his outstanding contributions in training and certifying U.S. Military personnel in fiber optics. A recent ETA International press release praised Jackson for his dedication to making sure the students in his classes were trained **and certified** – setting them up for success in their military careers and preparing them for a successful transition into civilian jobs upon separation. Clarence Jackson exemplifies the dedication of all our USAODS Instructors and faculty members who mentor, supervise, and encourage every Soldier in the credentialing program. From initial enrollment through performance exams, the school staff is actively engaged with the students.

In closing, I am proud of all our dedicated military and civilian instructors who provide quality training, education and leader development under One Army School System (OASS) across our 26 distributed training locations for the total force (AC, USAR, and ARNG). They are dedicated to training stellar Ordnance professionals, across all compos, in each of our 31 military occupational specialties. I am equally proud of the 33,000+ students (annually) who dedicate themselves to learning the technical and leadership skills that will generate readiness across our Army. Finally, I thank the Army leaders who encourage their Soldiers to pursue credentialing opportunities. In doing so, they are helping our Army build a talent base that can rise to the challenges of a complex future. Our combined efforts will guarantee that our Ordnance personnel remain the best trained and credentialed Soldiers in the Army in order to assist our commanders in building and preserving READINESS!

Go Ordnance!

COL(P) David Wilson
40th Chief of Ordnance

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Regimental Command Sergeant Major Highlights

The Ordnance Corps is full of the most talented men and women in the world, and it is our responsibility as leaders to unleash their initiative to adapt and innovate to meet tomorrow's challenges. Underpinning our ability to keep pace with the speed of war are adaptive and creative leaders. In today's complex and dynamic environment, the Ordnance Corps depends on leaders who anticipate change, recognize opportunity, and adapt to meet new challenges. Army READINESS is based on four pillars of manning, training, equipping, and leader development. I would like to highlight some aspects of leader development (LD) and how we reinvigorate it back into the Ordnance core competencies of ammunition, explosive ordnance disposal, explosives safety, and maintenance throughout the Total Force.

Talent Management is the way we assess, employ, reward, promote, and retain Soldiers in the Army. Select, Train, Educate and Promote (STEP) supports the institutional, operational and self-development domains. In ensuring we prepare our Ordnance Soldiers for success, we have recently updated DA PAM 600-25, the Professional Development Models on the Army Career Tracker (ACT) website, and converted the U.S. Army Ordnance School to the Army Instructor Development Recognition Program (IDRP).

We are working to synchronize IDRP to all Ordnance School locations across Active, Reserve and National Guard. Again, focusing on READINESS and leader development, I would like to congratulate the recent Sergeant Major selects: CMF 89, 38 considered 10 selected (26%); CMF 91, 168 considered 30 selected (18%); CMF 94, 20 considered, 3 selected (15%). A review of each Ordnance CMF promotion statistics can be found on the Army Career Tracker. For further analysis, view the video log from the 24 February Ordnance Connect!

Here are some highlights from around the Corps:

SGT Craig Hudson

SGT Craig Hudson (91B), a 24 year old from Leominster, Massachusetts who is assigned to the 529th Regimental Support Company, 4th Battalion, 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) volunteered several months ago to become a Sentinel at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Not only has he passed all required training to earn the coveted Tomb Guard Identification Badge, he was one of the fastest as well. Check out our Facebook for more photos.

Palletized Loading System (PLS) moving ammunition in support of a battalion training exercise

Ammunition and Explosive Safety: Fox Company, 1-37 Field Artillery out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington conducted a two-week training exercise at Yakima Training Center. The Forward Support Company, led by 1SG Charles Sherlock (91Z), focused on delivering ammunition in support of the battalion's mission while also developing their leaders to have confidence in any environment.

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RCSM Highlights Continued from page 4

Maintenance: Congratulations to SSG Jimmy K. Lim (right) of the Conventional Weapons Division for winning the title of Ordnance School Military Instructor of the Year. He will move on to the next level representing the Ordnance School in the CASCOM Instructor of the Year competition. Exceeding the standard is a sure way to set yourself apart when it comes time for promotion!

SSG Jimmy K. Lim

The Stryker Division in the Ordnance School's Directorate of Training completed another Unit Diagnostics Immersion Program (UDIP) mission. The three man team, led by Staff Sgt. Sean Olsen, included Staff Sgt. Frank Smith and Staff Sgt. Bradley Southern. The team trained 48 unit maintainers on advanced diagnostics and troubleshooting Stryker armament platforms. The Stryker Division also completed two iterations of the Full-Up Power Pack (FUPP) maintenance task analysis using AIT students, closely supervised by our seasoned instructors. The process will be used to determine who, and at what level the tasks should be performed. The division also conducted a "demonstration of assets" presentation for 11 major and small businesses from across the country.

Stryker Systems Maintainer Division completing Unit Diagnostics Immersion Program training.

Electronic Maintenance: Effective 1 October 2016, MOS 94W was retitled to **Electronic Maintenance Supervisor** and MOS 94Z is now **Senior Electronic Maintenance Supervisor**. These changes have also been made to DA PAM 600-25. The re-titling of MOS 94T **Avenger System Repairer** to **Short Range Air Defense System Repairer** was approved 19 November 2015 and will take effect FY18. Implementation instruction has been announced by Notification of Future Change and is posted in the electronic DA Pam 611-21, MilSuite/Smartbook.

The Training with Industry (TWI) program for Enlisted Soldiers is contained in MILPER 17-028 for FY 2017. We have just a handful of applicants and would encourage you to challenge yourself in a unique broadening assignment.

As always, keep checking the Ordnance Corps Website, the USAODS Facebook and the Army Career Tracker for updates. Continue to take advantage of the credentialing programs that are listed on the Army COOL Website. This website will show all of the available credentials and how they are funded. Continue to volunteer for broadening assignments such as the Training with Industry (TWI) Program, AIT Platoon Sergeant or Instructor assignments. **Go Ordnance!**

CSM Edward C. Morris
12th Regimental Command Sergeant Major

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Regimental Chief Warrant Officer Highlights

Greetings Ordnance Teammates!
To be effective in my role as the Regimental Chief Warrant Officer (RCWO), I must continuously assess facts, challenge assumptions, and plan for today while preparing for tomorrow. In line with the July 2002 Army Training Leader Development Panel (TLDP) – Warrant Officer Study Final Report, I have a professional obligation to constantly assess, monitor, and solve problems related to training, professional development, morale, recruiting, retention, and readiness. Intermingled with this responsibility is my commitment to ensure Ordnance warrant officers of the future are fully prepared to effectively meet the demands of a globally responsive, regionally engaged Army capable of projecting combat power across multiple domains. We cannot afford to rest on our laurels and assume that what we were yesterday, or what we are today, is sufficient for the Army of 2025 and beyond.

Not long ago, I shared my **Top Ten Ordnance Warrant Officer Initiatives** (right) with all active duty Ordnance warrant officers via email. The great feedback I received generated some excellent dialog that continues to inform and shape our approach to these initiatives. Naturally, we each have a strong sense of pride and ownership over our unique specialties. It's this passion that drives us to excel in our fields. However, as professionals, we must maximize every opportunity to develop an understanding that extends beyond our unique experiences and interests. Allow me to provide a bit of perspective that I hope will help you understand the broader implications these initiatives will have on our wider Ordnance warrant officer population.

The first initiative, "DOTMLPF Analysis of OD WO Force Structure," is really about taking a hard look at our specialties and analyzing whether we have them right. That means assessing everything from position-coding to specialty structure. This analysis will *examine* the impact of demerging 913A and 914A from 915E and phasing out 913A. The results of the analysis will shape my recommendation to the Chief of Ordnance.

Top Ten
Ordnance Warrant Officer Initiatives:

DOTMLPF Analysis of Ordnance WO Force Structure

Ordnance CW5 Positions in Program Executive Offices

Execute Follow-on Technical Training for WOILE and WOSSE Courses

948D Force Design Update Removing CW2s from the SMC
**** Approved - Effective FY18 ****

913A/915A Force Design Update in the Field Artillery FSC within BCTs
**** Approved - Effective FY18 ****

DA Pam 600-3 Update

Army Career Tracker (ACT) Website Update

Updated Ordnance WO Prerequisites (Effective 1 Jan 17)

Warrant Officer 2025 Strategy Implementation

Command Maintenance Discipline Program (CMDP) Knowledge Center Update

There is not enough space in this newsletter to conduct a deep dive into every initiative, but allow me to provide a little background data that must be considered when discussing the 913A of the '***future.***' Beginning October 2018, the 91G MOS will be a terminal MOS (no longer in the Army inventory). As a result, DSESTS/NGATS will move under the

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RCWO Highlights

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control of 948B and be operated by 94Y. The creation of Systems Maintainers (91A/M/P/S) merged armament and hull tasks under single specialties by system thus eliminating our traditional armament specific specialties. Many thought that our 913As would continue to feed from 91A/M/P specialties, but that is just not the case. Those military occupational specialties (MOS) overwhelmingly apply for 915A based on their automotive experience. That means the future 913A has 91F Small Arms/Towed Artillery Repairer as the single feeder MOS. That should be concerning to all parties since we currently have 913As merging into 915E at CW4. We cannot continue down a path that dilutes our expertise and expect to exist long into the future. There are some that will argue that, upon promotion to CW4 you do nothing more than manage maintenance. Unfortunately, that is how we got into this position, and it has negatively affected readiness in the equipment, personnel, and financial domains.

To be frank, we have degraded the expertise within our warrant officer specialties by over-merging. The warrant officer cohort was not intended to serve as jack-of-all-trades (and thereby, a master-of-none). We define ourselves as *self-aware and adaptive technical experts,* but somehow we have convinced ourselves that we are all the same - that we all possess the same capabilities. This is not an accurate reflection of who we are. The fact is, each warrant officer is uniquely developed through many years of service, progressive education and training, and key developmental assignments. It is through this combination of experience and training that we develop the depth of knowledge required to be a technical expert.

I want to emphasize, these **Top Ten Ordnance Warrant Officer Initiatives** are about preparing for what lies ahead. This comprehensive assessment, as uncomfortable as it may be, is necessary to identify existing gaps and shape solutions that will enable the Ordnance warrant officer to serve as the premier land force technical expert **long into the future.**

As I travel, I continue to meet remarkable warrant officers in each of our nine warrant officer specialties who are making significant differences on a daily basis. I am duly impressed when I witness the creativity and the tenacity with which they are tackling and solving ill-structured problems. I challenge you to continuously seek opportunities to master fundamentals and develop the depth of knowledge that will equip you to serve as the Army's premier technical experts. Thank you for your commitment, dedication, and service to this great Army and our Nation. **Go Ordnance!**

CW5 Richard C. Myers, Jr.
9th Regimental Chief Warrant Officer

The Ordnance Regimental Chief Warrant Officer, CW5 Richard Myers, met with over 110 Ordnance warrant officers from across Fort Lee to discuss Ordnance specific initiatives and answer questions.

What's a TCM-EOD?

You may be asking yourself what is a TCM and specifically what is a TCM-EOD. I was asking myself the same question last spring when I received my assignment instructions to PCS here to Fort Lee as the TCM-EOD Director. A TCM is a TRADOC Capabilities Manager, specifically my team and I in the TCM-EOD develop, integrate, and synchronize Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education (DOTML) requirements for U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Field. We coordinate Joint, Interagency, and Multinational (JIM) EOD requirements in synchronization with the Sustainment Center Of Excellence (SCOE), Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (MSCOE), the Joint EOD Field, and the DA G38.

Your TCM-EOD Team focuses on three lines of effort: 1) Concepts and Doctrine: Joint and Army EOD Doctrine, 2) Training Development: training and education of our force, and 3) Materiel Development: modernizing our tool sets and kits. In order to maximize these efforts, you will all receive, from time to time, surveys on these topics or be asked to join us here at Fort Lee for a working group. It is vital that everyone respond to these surveys and participate in person when asked to ensure that the TCM-EOD Team is receiving the proper input and feedback from those assigned to operational outfits. I would like to personally thank the entire field for their assistance as we all work hard to make the field better than we found it!

COL David K. Green
Director, TCM-EOD

MG Williams, CG CASCOM, dons the bomb suit on a training lane during a recent visit to NAVSCOLEOD and the 73d Ordnance Training Battalion, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

EOD Concepts and Doctrine Update

The Army Warfighting Assessment is the Chief of Staff of the Army's annual capstone exercise in the Army's Force 2025 Maneuvers Campaign of Learning. Joint Staff J7 certified AWA as a Joint National Training Capability (JNTC) exercise with an enduring threefold purpose by learning in a focused, sustained, and collaborative manner. The following recommendations came out of this AWA assessment: update all EOD BN and Co communications capabilities to improve communications with supported units; assess and standardize the habitual alignment of EOD forces to conventional forces, SOF, and other critical missions; redesign the EOD Co to four PLTs from the current three PLTs to support the maneuver BDE requirements and identify bill-payers and compete for resources in the total Army analysis (TAA) process; identify equipment modernization solutions for exploitation equipment and transportation capability to improve mission flexibility and integration with different organizations. Next, the TCM-EOD will participate in the Maneuver, Support, Sustainment, Protection Integration Exercise (MSSPIX) – which will focus on the Render Safe - Sets, Kits, and Outfits. The materiel

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solutions in the assessment look to address a number of approved CNA Gaps that span from extremely high to moderate risk. Besides EOD specific gaps, the materiel solutions will address the mobility gap within the Soldier as a System (SaaS), mitigate capability gaps found within the Counter Explosive Hazard Defeat, and lastly gaps within the Mobility Through Urban and Complex Terrain.

MAJ Brian B. Kibitlewski
Chief, Capabilities Concepts and Doctrine

EOD Training Update

The EOD Phase I course is undergoing revision with implementation scheduled for 2QFY17. Course content is being updated to reflect the most current technical publications and an updated suitability test in accordance with DA PAM 611-105. The Engineer Explosive Ordnance Clearance Agent (EEOCA) course has been redesigned to meet requirements of the One Army School System (OASS) and capture recent changes to EOCA doctrine. The course was reformatted from four weeks (5-day week/8-hour day), to a two week (6-day week/10-hour day) course. In support of this effort, a complete revision of the EOCA Identification Guide is scheduled to be published upon approval of the new Program of Instruction. The 89D Advanced Leader Course will undergo academic growth from 8 weeks to 9 weeks and 2 days. The curriculum will be redesigned to include updated skill level 30 individual critical tasks, updated doctrine and policies, and a greater emphasis on leadership and NCO duties. Enhanced domestic and contingency operations scenarios during the field portion of the course will support realistic training. The Senior Leader Course content will be updated to reflect the updated and approved SL40 individual critical tasks in addition to leadership and NCO responsibilities. The curriculum also provides senior leaders with a foundation of staff operations, training and property management, and brigade combat teams. The EOD Logistics Captain's Career Course (EOD LOG-C3) course is 14 weeks in length, taught by experienced EOD officers, and received after students complete the seven week Common Core curriculum. EOD LOG-C3 students receive blocks of instruction geared towards EOD company command in addition to the traditional multifunctional logistics curriculum. EOD LOG-C3 also educates leaders in the principles of Protection and Intelligence warfighting functions essential to the overall success of our supported forces.

Ms. Susan Troendle
Chief, Training Development Division

EOD Materiel Update

The Director of Capabilities Development and Integration, Materiel Systems Division is developing the following capabilities for submission to the Program Objective Memorandum (POM) 20-24 submission cycle:

EOD Robotic Payloads (ERP). The ERP uses multiple payloads that are quickly interchangeable and compatible with any Robotic and Autonomous Systems Ground (RAS-G) interoperability profile (IOP) compatible platform. Through the ERP, the Army will gain a competitive advantage over the IED threat and greatly improve Soldier success, efficiency, and safety.

EOD Renders Safe Sets, Kits, and Outfits (RS SKO). The EOD RS SKO will provide Army EOD with a sustainable type classified/materiel release RS capability that can transition and keep pace with the flexibility of the enemy and the rapid development of industry and state of the art technology.

Common Robotics System Heavy (CRS-H). The CRS-H will come standard with cameras and the native arm manipulator. The CRS-H will also be capable of customization based on the mission by adding to or reducing the IOP standardized payloads for use by EOD on VBIEDs.

EOD Vehicle Borne IED Blast Overpressure Tool (EODVBOT). The VBOT is a specialized tool designed for use by EOD Soldiers who are tasked with the disruption and or render-safe of VBIEDs, consisting of individual explosive charge modules that may be used alone or linked together and deployed in a variety of configurations.

Mr. Pat McGrath
Chief, Materiel Systems Division

FY2018 Training with Industry Selections

The Ordnance Corps congratulates the listed company grade officers and warrant officers on their recent selection to the TWI program.

The Training with Industry program offers unique broadening experiences for selected service members. The program provides an intellectual exchange between some of the Army's finest and participating corporations recognized as industrial elites. Selected officers, warrant officers, and non-commissioned officers are embedded with their corresponding corporation for a year and then utilize their training at a follow-on assignment.

For more information about this program and the application process, visit our Training with Industry web page.

CPT E. Lucas Rackley
Personnel Development Office

Congratulations!

Alliant Techsystems
CW2 (P) Jessica Lee
American Ordnance
Bryson Soden
Caterpillar
CPT Daniel Nedell, CW3 Santos Batista-Nunez and CW3 Ronald Page
FedEx Express
CPT Tasha Urban
General Dynamics Land Systems
CW3 Daniel Davis and CW3 Charles Duplechin
Lincoln Electric
CW3 Jeremy Allen
Lockheed Martin
CW2 (P) Terrence Steadman
Los Alamos National Laboratory
CPT Thomas Artone
Oshkosh
CW3 Jeremy Bentley

Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance) Intern Training

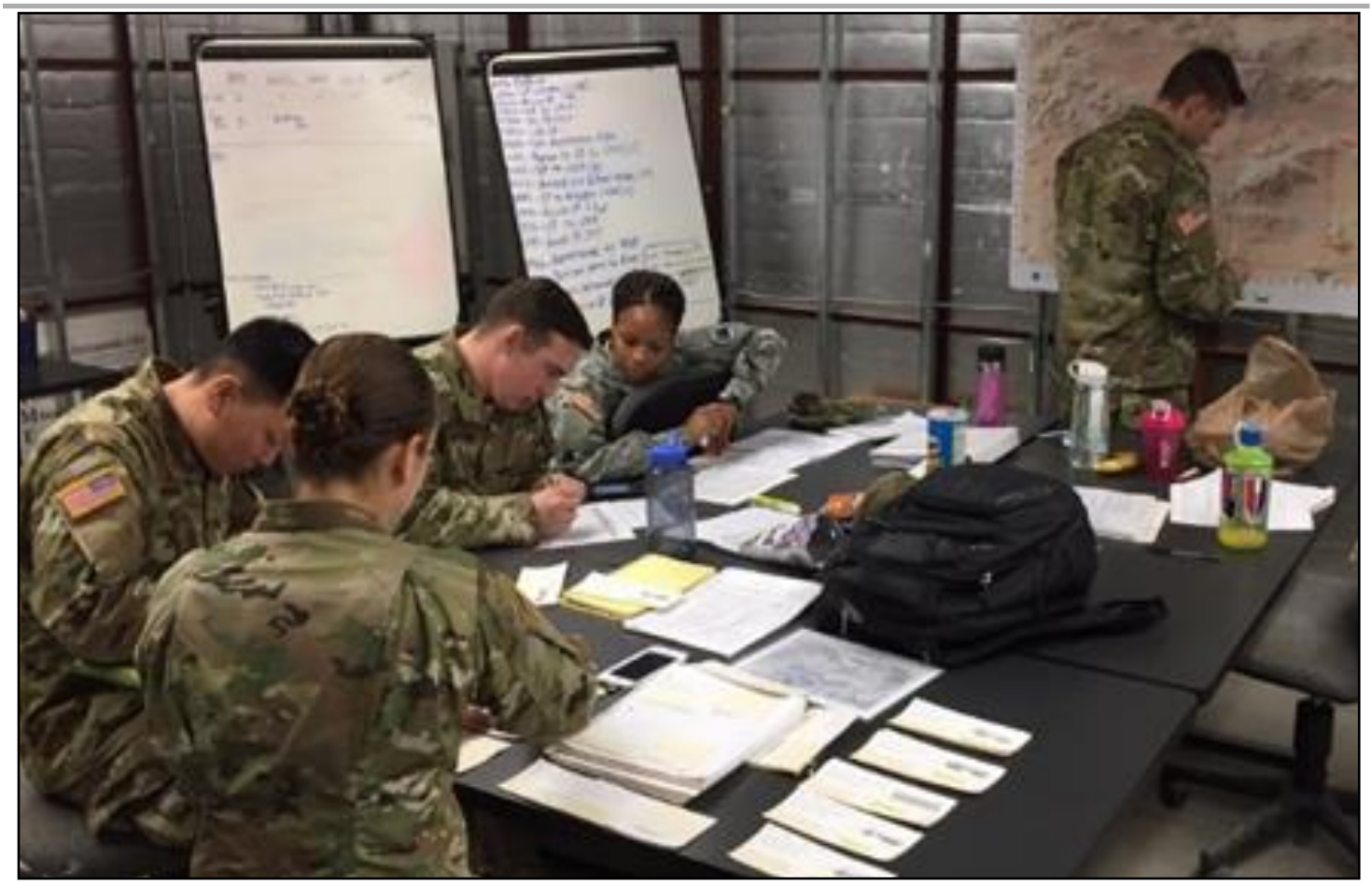
Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance) (QASAS) personnel perform ammunition surveillance functions to support Army Class V operations worldwide. All personnel entering the QASAS program must successfully complete a two year intern program. The intern program is divided into two phases; Phase I consists of formal training presented by the Defense Ammunition Center (DAC) in McAlester, Oklahoma. Over a one year period, interns are required to successfully complete 12 instructor led courses and the required annual mandatory training prior to moving to Phase II. The second year of training is completed at a CONUS based Joint Munitions Command Ammunition Depot. Upon successfully completing both training phases, the intern is then a certified QASAS. All QASAS interns enter the program as a GS-07, after completion of Phase I training they are promoted to GS-09 and then to GS-11, journeyperson status, after successfully completing Phase II training. As a condition of employment, QASAS personnel sign a mandatory mobility agreement and move every 3-5 years throughout their career. The QASAS program is the first and oldest civilian career program, supporting the Army since 1920.

For more information about the QASAS intern program call (918) 420-8925.

Mr. Neil Wachutka
Defense Ammunition Center

QASAS interns inspecting ammunition during the Ammunition Surveillance Applications course at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, McAlester, Oklahoma.

Army Logistics University (ALU) Mentorship Program



The 832d Ordnance Battalion Commander, LTC Gallagher (not shown) mentored OD BOLC Classes 17-02 and 17-03 shown above during the culminating FIX/MIX exercise.

The 59th Ordnance Brigade's support to the Army University Concept has paid dividends in reinforcing the quality of Professional Military Education taught at the Army Logistics University (ALU). Senior leader involvement at all levels is enhancing the readiness of agile leaders. The Chief of Ordnance and leaders of the 59th Ordnance Brigade play a mentorship role in the Logistics Captains Career Course and Basic Officer Leader Course. They conduct PRT with the students, receive Mission Analysis briefs, speak at graduations and share professional lessons learned. Interested students have an open door to a five-year career timeline session which prepares them for the challenges encountered in their first unit. The Chief of Ordnance, Regimental Chief Warrant Officer (RCWO), and the 59th Ordnance Brigade Commander speak at all Sustainment Pre-Command Courses. The RCWO and other Ordnance School warrant officers conduct leader professional development sessions with students in the Warrant Officer Advanced and Basic Courses.

CSMs, SGMs, 1SGs, and MSGs provide additional reinforcement to the NCO Academy's Senior and Advanced Leader Courses by sharing the lessons they have learned from their experience in the AIT training environment. Additionally, they provide experience-based feedback pertinent to daily class programs of instruction, participate in physical training and serve as guest speakers.

The 59th Ordnance Brigade is shaping the Army's next generation of Ordnance Officers, Warrant Officers, and NCOs while providing senior leaders with an opportunity to impart wisdom gained from decades of experience.

MAJ Joseph Zabaldano
59th Ordnance Brigade

OD RCAG Participants Discuss Gaps and Best Practices

What do you get when subject matter experts from TRADOC, CASCOM, the Ordnance School, National Guard Bureau, U.S. Army Reserve Command and Ordnance Regional Training Sites-Maintenance (RTS-M) all converge to discuss the state of Individual Soldier training readiness? You get a Reserve Component Advisory Group, or RCAG.

The CASCOM Quality Assurance Office and Ordnance Reserve Component Office (RCO) collaborated to host an OD RCAG at Fort Lee from 5-9 December 2016. Leaders from all 17 Reserve Component RTS-M schools received updates on the Army Enterprise Accreditation Standards (AEAS) transition, One Army School System challenges, courseware updates and the Skills-Based Training (SBT) implementation plan. Training Management Lifecycle and ATRRS training were also conducted by Tim Regan, ARNG Senior Training Specialist.

Information and open forum discussions among the participants provided valuable insight on current manning, equipment, training and facility capability gaps, lessons learned, and best practices at the RTS-M schools.

COL James Groark, Chief of the Reserve Component Office, stressed the importance of synchronizing efforts between all entities emphasizing a "strength in numbers" theme. He underscored the fact that it takes all levels working together to provide quality training to all of our Soldiers within the Ordnance community.

The RCAG proved to be an excellent forum for addressing gaps and sharing best practices across the maintenance and ammunition community to enhance Individual Soldier training and improve operational readiness across all compos.

LTC Bruce Ladman
Assistant Chief, USAR

COL James Groark, RCO Chief, addressed leaders from 17 Regional Training Sites—Maintenance, who provided valued input as members of the Reserve Component Advisory Group (RCAG).

Quarterly OD Connect

Missed it?
Check out our Audio Logs!

February's topics:

- Operation Inherent Resolve AAR
- Mobilized OD Specific Training
- Ordnance Crucible (OD Teams of the Year)
- Maintenance Support Device
- AMSAA Analysis Program

Next LIVE OD Connect will be in May!

Not Just Another Day in the Mud!

Vehicle Recovery (H8 ASI) in Action: Teams carry out their strategy to recover the vehicle (left). Students celebrate getting the mired vehicle out of the mud pit with the M88A1 (right).

Tanks were first introduced to U.S. Army combat forces in 1918, forever changing recovery operations in logistical formations. Prior to the introduction of the tank, the Army relied on internal unit recovery techniques, since weight and size were not a major factor. The tank changed this paradigm, requiring the introduction of specialized equipment and trained personnel to ensure the return of critical assets to the combat force.

As vehicle weight and size continue to grow, the risk to both personnel and equipment increases. To mitigate this risk, the Ordnance Corps established the H8 Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) course, providing an elite workforce to support the needs of the field commander. Mechanics that earn this ASI must have in-depth problem-solving skills, the ability to execute mathematical estimates, knowledge of a wide range of equipment, and the ability to plan and execute a recovery mission within established time constraints. To help develop these abilities, the Recovery Course at Fort Lee recently added a capstone event as a final assessment in the training program.

The capstone event evaluates the skills, knowledge, and capability taught during the three weeks of recovery training. Soldiers are tested in realistic scenarios which they must successfully complete in order to earn the coveted H8 ASI.

During the evaluation, Soldiers are issued an operation order similar to what they will be required to execute in the field. The recovery team must complete initial planning, prepare recovery assets, conduct movement to a directed grid coordinate, and execute recovery of overturned or mired equipment under the close supervision of an evaluator. At different points during mission execution, Soldiers are rotated into different leadership roles requiring all members of the team to be prepared to execute all tasks. The team formulates their own solution to the given situation and are allowed the flexibility to execute their concept, as long as all safety concerns are mitigated.

Since no two recovery missions are the same, each mission and FRAGO present a new set of challenges that Soldiers must overcome. At the end of each mission, the evaluator conducts an After Action Review (AAR), helping Soldiers develop better analysis skills and consider other options they might not have considered during the mission. Upon completion of the mission, the recovery team must return all recovery assets to fully mission capable status and prepare for their next requirement.

The capstone event pushes newly trained recovery personnel beyond the classroom and prepares them to assimilate easily into their new role upon return to a field unit, positively impacting readiness across the Army. Soldiers are a little dirtier, have increased capabilities, are highly confident and have improved leadership skills; while the Army earns a game-changing professional. The capstone event better prepares Soldiers to meet the future challenges in the Unified Land Operations (ULO).

Mr. Edward Buckner
Deputy G3, Cyber Center of Excellence

Best Rifle in the War - Model 1903 Springfield Rifle

During the Spanish-American War, U.S. Forces faced German Mausers used by the Spanish which was a superior weapon to the Krag-Jorgensen, the primary American small arm. After the war, the Ordnance Department re-evaluated the Krag intending to improve its performance. Attempts were made but did not meet expectations.

In 1900, Chief of Ordnance BG Adelbert R. Buffinton wanted a new rifle to replace the Krag due to its deficiencies which included a low rate of fire and a low muzzle velocity. A new rifle cartridge was ordered to be developed with a minimum muzzle velocity of 2,300 fps instead of the Krag's 2,000 fps. However, this change resulted in excess of 40,000 psi - well beyond the ability of the Krag to handle.

Springfield Armory designed a rifle in 1900 based on the Mauser but retained some features of the Krag. The Ordnance Department needed to retain some of the features of the Mauser (e.g., a two-lug bolt and clip-loading capability). The new design, designated the 'Experimental Magazine Rifle of 1900', was evaluated by the War Department. Six weeks later, the Ordnance Department Board began testing it and later made recommendations for improvements. Springfield Armory incorporated these suggestions and designed the 1901 Prototype. A few Model 1902 (year manufactured) rifles were produced but were identical to the 1901 Prototype.

The Ordnance Board convened in January 1903 to evaluate the latest prototype. After extensive testing, the rifle proved worthy but a few changes, mostly minor, were recommended. The barrel length was shortened to 24 inches instead of 30 inches providing one weapon for both infantry and cavalry, saving on manufacturing one small arm in lieu of two.

U.S. Soldiers with the Model 1903 Springfield Rifle in France during WWI.

The rifle was officially adopted as the M1903, .30 caliber magazine rifle on 19 June 1903. Ordnance engineers continued to refine its design to reduce bore erosion due to extreme heat from the burning powder. Muzzle velocity was reduced from 2,300 fps to 2,200 fps to remedy this problem but bore erosion continued to be an issue.

The '03 was the most popular rifle used by U.S. troops during WWI. According to Cpl. Mike Shelton, L Co., 308th Inf., 77th Div., **"They were the best rifles in the war."** The M1903 Springfield was manufactured from 1903-1944 with 3.3 million produced.

Shortly after WWI, the rifle pictured was subjected to increasing pressure charges well above the standard 35-40,000 psi. The unbelievable safety of this weapon was revealed as it fired 7,767 rounds. The last shot, at 107,000 psi, finally caused the cartridge to explode damaging the rifle. Other '03 rifles were tested as high as 133,000 psi without bursting the barrel, receiver or breaking the bolt.

The Model 1903 Springfield Rifle as it appeared on display at an unknown location - possibly at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

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